

Remarks:

This is a full and complete response to the Final Office Action (hereinafter “the Office Action”) mailed December 9, 2009. Review and favorable reconsideration of the claims is requested in view of the following remarks.

With this reply claims 3, 6, 20, 24, and 25 are canceled, leaving claims 1, 2, 4-5, 7-23, 26-31 and new claims 32-33 pending in the application.

The last Office Action stated that claims 13-14, and 25-29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants thank the examiner for pointing out the allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 13 and 14 have been rewritten with the limitations of claim 1 as new claims 32 and 33 with the limitations of all intervening claims. Additionally, claim 27 has been rewritten with all the limitations of claim 1. Also, the limitations of claim 25 and any intervening claims have been incorporated into claims 1, 2 and 4 thereby placing them in condition for allowance. Claims 7, 12, 15, 16, 18, 23, 26, 27, and 31 have been amended to revise dependency accordingly.

Applicant submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance and requests a notice to this effect.

The application is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. If any issues remain outstanding, Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance.

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, referencing Attorney Docket No.: 7298.125.NPUS00.

Application Serial No. 10/710,883
Docket No.: 7298.125.NPUS00
Page 12 of 12

Novak Druce + Quigg LLP
1000 Louisiana, Fifty-Third Floor
Houston, Texas 77002
(713) 571-3400
(713) 456-2836 (fax)

Respectfully submitted,

/Jason W. Bryan/

Jason W. Bryan
Reg. No. 51,505

April 9, 2010